

August 9, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am writing regarding docket numbers 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197. It is my opinion that the FDA must regulate the practices in the chicken industry for the health and well-being of the American people. More must be done than simple bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulation of egg refrigeration temperatures. I strongly believe that the FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because scientific studies have made it clear that this practice promotes disease by destroying the starving hens' immune system. Since the FDA has the jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health, **the FDA should ban forced molting of laying hens because forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs.** Not only is this practice inhuman in its cruelty, but this cruelty is a direct cause of contamination and disease. The FDA was petitioned in April of 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without further delay.

Sincerely,  
Erin K. Branham

96P-0418

C 377



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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C 377

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C 378

96P-0418/ C 377